

Refers to HOW the ideas are conveyed - the representational process.

The element of authenticity is to be found in the emotion that the poems elicit.

## Artifice of Honesty



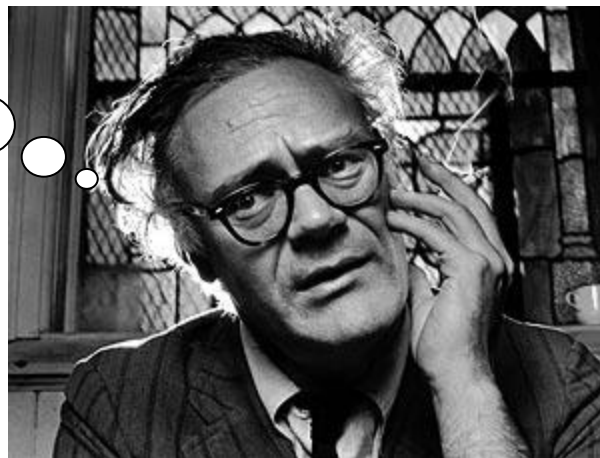
Ma'am that's a PARADOX. Are you saying representations reflect the tension between truth and fiction, reality vs appearance and all those other binaries?

YES!...

We are exploring HOW the **Self** is represented in art...in Poetry.

"There's a good deal of tinkering with the fact".

Lowell



### What do the poems do?

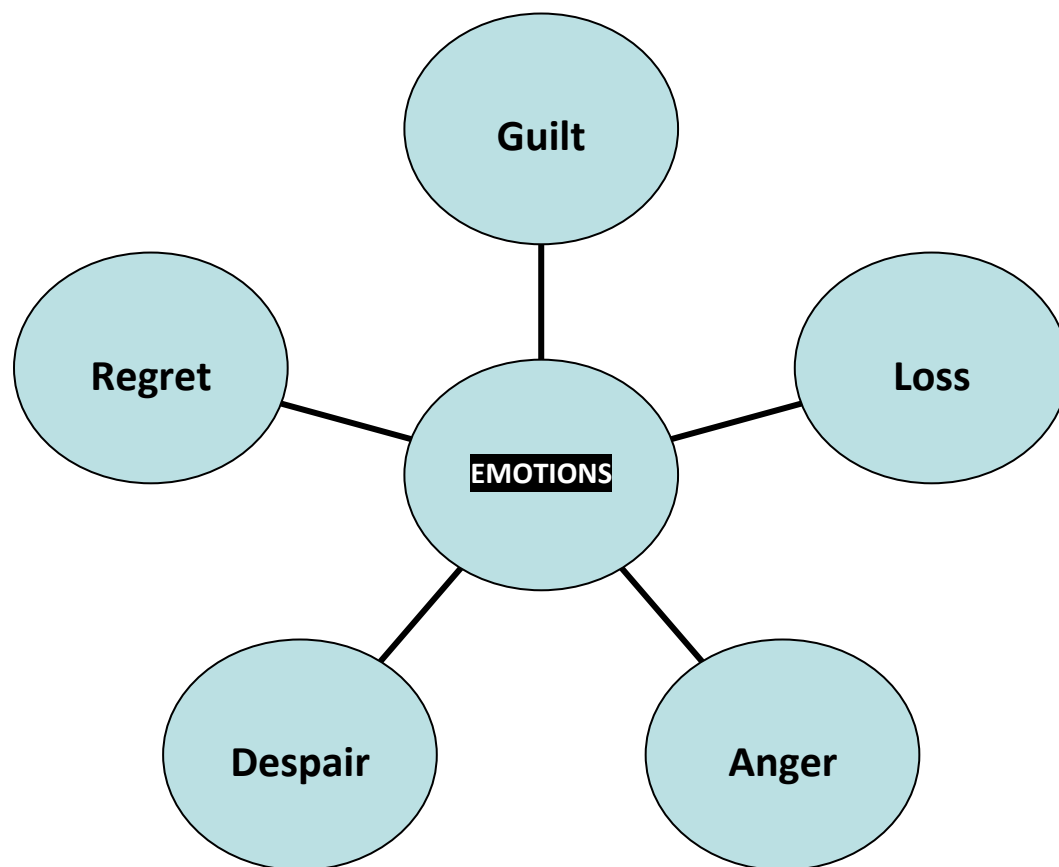
- They mix fact with fiction
- Create an illusion of honesty
- Achieve emotional authenticity
- Simulate sincerity
- They're confessional NOT because they speak the truth of a situation, but because they speak about a subject matter considered taboo – the Self and the emotional complexities of being human.

## **The Artistry of the Poems:**

Tampering with the facts, of course, does not weaken the poem, just the opposite. It is the poetic strategy of presenting them as facts that poses the greatest difficulty.

Lowell manages to convey the “whimsical, minute, tender, small emotions”

## **What are the emotions conveyed/explored in Lowell’s poems?**



## **Describing Lowell’s Style of Representation**

His poems are “like mosaics in which the separate tiles are so bright and glittering that we cannot see the design. A mosaic is fine, it is the model par excellence for poetry in our time, but if we are to see the pattern, the separate pieces must be clear and naturally arranged; and in the best mosaics the colours are subdued rather than gaudy”.

*From A Meaning of Robert Lowell*